

Fr. Andrew Garden



Rev. Fr. Andrew Garden MA PGCE Ph.B STL was born in January 1970 in Edinburgh and was educated at Ampleforth College before going to Cambridge University to study modern languages.

He taught French for two years at Ampleforth College Junior School and then for nine years at Kirkwall Grammar School in Orkney, having gained a PGCE from St Andrew's College of Education in Glasgow.

He undertook his studies for the priesthood at the Pontifical Scots College, Rome, graduating with a License in Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University, specialising in Biblical Theology.

He was ordained in St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh on 29th June 2013 by Bishop Stephen Robson and took up his appointment as assistant priest at St Patrick's, Kilsyth, at the end of August 2013.

Fr Garden first came to St Patrick's Kilsyth on a Parish placement as a seminarian for a short period during his training for the Priesthood in August and September 2010.

Deo Gratias, Andrew completed his journey to the Priesthood when he was ordained in St Mary's Cathedral Edinburgh on Saturday 29th June 2013 at as a new priest for the Archdiocese of St Andrew's and Edinburgh.

In August 2013 Fr Garden came to St Patrick's Kilsyth as assistant priest to PP Fr James Tracey. In August 2014 Fr Garden left Kilsyth and became an assistant priest in the Falkirk cluster of parishes.

A presentation was given to Fr Garden in August 2014 to mark his leaving the parish and on behalf of St Patrick's Kilsyth John Trower said...

It is my honour to present this cheque to you Fr Andrew on behalf of the Parish.

Fr Andrew - you first came to Kilsyth as a seminarian in 2010 and made many friends within the Parish even then on that short stay.

So, from a distance we watched your progress through your studies in Rome – this Parish was therefore proud and happy to hear the news of your Ordination by Bishop Stephen Robson at St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh on 29th June 2013 last year.

On reflection now, it seems such a short time ago that your first placement as an Ordained Priest, was at St Patrick's Kilsyth. Exactly 1 year ago, in August 2013.

It probably just seems like longer for you!

The Parish community was greatly relieved to see you arrive not only as a known familiar face but also because we were aware that Fr James' health had been variable and the burden of running this large Parish having solely on his shoulders was clearly a heavy one. You have greatly assisted with that – regardless of Fr James leg pulling from time to time.

Our first assistant priest was Father John Murphy who arrived in St Patrick's in 1881 and stayed with us for 4 years. This Parish was blessed by having the permanent presence of an assistant priest from 1903 until 1998 when Fr Chris Heenan left. There was a short pause and from 2004 to 2008 were graced with the presence of Fr Deeley. After another break of 5 years - you are the 36th assistant priest in the history of this Parish and soon your presence here will also pass into history.

It is unfortunate with the paucity of vocations in the Archdiocese that you have to leave us so soon – and without us having the prospect of another assistant priest in this Parish for some time. Possibly never again.

So, it is important to say that we do really appreciate the sacrifice that you and the other new priests and seminarians have made in choosing this life of service – where would we be without you.

It is also important to say that you have entered fully into the life of this parish and been able to shoulder the burden of it running - despite the fact that Father James has been known to refer to you as 'boy wonder' on occasion!

It has been said in the past that some assistant priests are 'invisible through the week and incomprehensible on Sundays' – I hasten to say that you could never be accused this!

It is clear that we have been the beneficiaries of your academic past - Rev. Fr. Andrew Garden MA PGCE PhB STL. Fr Andrew was educated at Ampleforth College before going to Cambridge University to study modern languages – so you can now claim also to speak 'Kilsythian' and even have a passable understanding of 'Crojian'.

Your previous experience as a teacher has also been of great help in your involvement in St Patrick's School with our children – and I know how deeply the school staff has appreciated your contribution there.

I know also of your many visits to the sick and elderly in the Parish - for which we here as their family members thank you greatly!

There was a view initially that due to your passing resemblance - that you were Fr Hand's wee cousin – which we can now confirm is not the case. I once heard some ladies of the parish discussing what age you are! One insisting that you were over 30, the other insisting

that you were still in your 20's. I can exclusively reveal in fact that Fr Andrew was born in 1970 making him far older than he looks!

Perhaps we should refer to you as Fr Peter Pan!

Fr Andrew - our loss in your leaving us is very much Falkirk's gain! Wherever your personal mission takes you now in our Archdiocese - you will always be 'our priest'. We hope that Kilsyth will always stay in your heart no matter where you are.

On behalf of the Parish of St Patrick's Kilsyth I'd would like to say - may God Bless you and spare you for your mission ahead and a heartfelt thanks from all of us for all that you have done throughout your time here in St Patrick's Kilsyth.



Fr Andrew Garden first came to Kilsyth before his ordination as a student for the priesthood in 2012.



Fr Garden worked during his summer leave from the Pontifical Scots College Rome in St Patrick's Kilsyth.



Fr Garden returned to Kilsyth in 2013 after his ordination.



Fr Garden stayed in Kilsyth till Aug 2014 when he was transferred to Falkirk.



Fr Garden says Mass during his time in Kilsyth.

